From Governor's Agreement:

Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources. Climate change and its associated impacts threaten to indelibly alter the Mid-Atlantic region and its resources. Increased coastal hazards, such as flooding and erosion, will threaten existing infrastructure and public health and safety. The widespread nature of this problem also will challenge our efforts to manage human activities across the region.

MARCO Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Team
2011-2012 Action Work Plan

Vision
Prepare the Mid-Atlantic region for the impacts of climate change, primarily sea level rise impacts on regional infrastructure, coastal habitat, and shoreline management.

Desired Outcomes
• Identify and acquire the data needed to conduct a regional vulnerability assessment for the impacts of sea level rise and increased coastal flooding on critical infrastructure and coastal habitats
• Institute a means of storing and delivering the data needed for sea level rise and increased coastal flooding planning and decision-making
• Facilitate the exchange of information on coastal vulnerability, community resiliency, and shoreline management of sea level rise and increased coastal flooding
• Initiate adaptation measures to collectively reduce the region's vulnerability to the impacts of sea level rise and increased coastal flooding

<u>Action No. 1</u>
Collect accurate, high resolution topography (LiDAR) and associated metadata for each coastal county of the five Mid-Atlantic States. Incorporate elevation data into a SLR viewer.
Deliverables:

1. A detailed Map and description of current status of high resolution topography (LiDAR) for the five Mid-Atlantic States, county coverage map, and data descriptors. (Metadata)
2. A gap analysis of geographic areas where data still needs to be collected and description of any data anomalies that would prohibit their use in a regional coverage of area for inundation scenario mapping
3. Provide information through a web based sea level rise and coastal flood impact viewer

<u>Action No. 2*</u>
Inventory existing GIS data for critical infrastructure and coastal habitats in the Mid-Atlantic region and address any data gaps.
Deliverables:

- A GIS gap analysis of critical infrastructure identified as priorities for the region

<u>Action No. 3*</u>

Explore options for storage and delivery of data sets including distributed as well as a centralized portal.
Deliverables

1. A summary of the recommended alternatives for regional data storage, management, distribution, and use for decision support activities

Action No. 4*

Develop information sharing processes for sea level rise information and efforts in the Mid-Atlantic States including outreach, education, and public awareness.
Deliverables

1. A consistent set of scenarios across the Mid-Atlantic for communicating the impacts of sea level rise and increased coastal flooding
2. A communications and messaging strategy to convey information to the public on the impacts of sea level rise and increased coastal flooding

Action No. 5*

Conduct a regional assessment and vertical control survey benchmark correction throughout the Mid-Atlantic to enable accurate higher resolution monitoring of sea level rise and subsidence.
Deliverables:

1. An evaluation and gap analysis to access and quantify the vertical accuracy of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) vertical control network (benchmarks) throughout the Mid-Atlantic
2. Implementation of the NGS Height Modernization initiative (HTMOD) to correct problems at key locations throughout the Mid-Atlantic identified as part of the gap analysis

* Project activities will start after funding is obtained

Action Team Participants:

- Mid-Atlantic States: Delaware (Chair), Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Virginia
- U.S Department of Interior: USGS
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency